

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for reducing radiation exposure from an imaging system adapted to provide a radiation distribution about an object cavity during a scan, the method comprising:

determining an entry location representative of a location of a hand;

operating the imaging system so as to cause the imaging system to emit radiation having a radiation intensity and an angular radiation distribution;

controlling said radiation intensity in a manner responsive to said entry location so as to create image data; and

processing said image data so as to create processed image data;

wherein said operating the imaging system comprises operating the imaging system adapted to provide said angular radiation distribution comprising a first angular radiation distribution suitable for a 360 degree image reconstruction and a second angular radiation distribution suitable for a 180 degree image reconstruction;

wherein said first angular radiation distribution has a first average radiation distribution, said second angular radiation distribution has a second average radiation distribution, and said first and second average radiation distributions are about constant throughout said scan.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining includes determining said entry location relative to said imaging system.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said entry location is determined in a manner responsive to a FluoroCT scan.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the imaging system includes an object cavity and a radiation source having a gantry angular position, wherein said radiation source is rotatably associated with the imaging system so as to rotate around said object cavity and wherein said entry location includes an entry angular range.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said operating includes operating the imaging system so as to cause said radiation source to rotate around said object cavity.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said controlling includes controlling said radiation intensity such that said radiation intensity is decreased by a predetermined minimization amount when said gantry angular position is within said entry angular range.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said predetermined minimization amount is equal to said radiation intensity.

10. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said controlling includes controlling said radiation intensity such that said radiation intensity is increased by a predetermined minimization amount when said gantry angular position is within 180 degrees of said entry angular range.

11. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said controlling includes controlling said radiation intensity such that said radiation intensity is increased by a

predetermined minimization amount when said gantry angular position is within 90 degrees of said entry angular range.

12. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said operating includes operating the imaging system so as to determine a radiation absorption angular profile, wherein said radiation absorption angular profile is responsive to said gantry angular position.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said controlling includes controlling the imaging system so as to modulate said radiation intensity in a manner responsive to said radiation absorption angular profile.

14-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A medium encoded with a machine-readable computer program code for reducing radiation exposure from an imaging system adapted to provide a radiation distribution about an object cavity during a scan, said medium including instructions for causing a controller to implement a method comprising:
determining an entry location representative of a location of a hand;
operating the imaging system so as to cause the imaging system to emit radiation having a radiation intensity and an angular radiation distribution;
controlling said radiation intensity in a manner responsive to said entry location so as to create image data; and
processing said image data so as to create processed image data;
wherein said operating the imaging system comprises operating the imaging system adapted to provide said angular radiation distribution comprising a first angular radiation distribution suitable for a 360 degree image reconstruction and a second angular radiation distribution suitable for a 180 degree image reconstruction;

wherein said first angular radiation distribution has a first average radiation distribution, said second angular radiation distribution has a second average radiation distribution, and said first and second average radiation distributions are about constant throughout said scan.

18. (original) The medium of claim 17, wherein said determining includes determining said entry location relative to said imaging system.

19-20. (canceled)

21. (original) The medium of claim 17, wherein said entry location is determined in a manner responsive to a FluoroCT scan.

22. (original) The medium of claim 17, wherein the imaging system includes an object cavity and a radiation source having a gantry angular position, wherein said radiation source is rotatably associated with the imaging system so as to rotate around said object cavity and wherein said entry location includes an entry angular range.

23. (original) The medium of claim 22, wherein said operating includes operating the imaging system so as to cause said radiation source to rotate around said object cavity.

24. (original) The medium of claim 22, wherein said controlling includes controlling said radiation intensity such that said radiation intensity is decreased by a predetermined minimization amount when said gantry angular position is within said entry angular range.

25. (original) The medium of claim 24, wherein said predetermined minimization amount is equal to said radiation intensity.

26. (original) The medium of claim 22, wherein said controlling includes controlling said radiation intensity such that said radiation intensity is increased by a predetermined minimization amount when said gantry angular position is within 180 degrees of said entry angular range.

27. (original) The medium of claim 22, wherein said controlling includes controlling said radiation intensity such that said radiation intensity is increased by a predetermined minimization amount when said gantry angular position is within 90 degrees of said entry angular range.

28. (original) The medium of claim 22, wherein said operating includes operating the imaging system so as to determine a radiation absorption angular profile, wherein said radiation absorption angular profile is responsive to said gantry angular position.

29. (original) The medium of claim 28, wherein said controlling includes controlling the imaging system so as to modulate said radiation intensity in a manner responsive to said radiation absorption angular profile.

30-31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) A method for reducing ~~a~~ the physician's radiation exposure from an imaging system while maintaining patient dose and image quality comprising:

- obtaining an object to be scanned;
- operating the imaging system so as to create image data;
- displaying said image data on an output device; and

processing said image data using a processing device, wherein said processing device;

determines an entry location representative of a location of a physician's hand;
operates the imaging system so as to cause the imaging system to emit radiation having a radiation intensity and an angular radiation distribution;
controls said radiation intensity in a manner responsive to said entry location so as to create image data; and
processes said image data so as to create processed image data;
wherein said imaging system is adapted to provide said angular radiation distribution comprising a first angular radiation distribution suitable for a 360 degree image reconstruction and a second angular radiation distribution suitable for a 180 degree image reconstruction;
wherein said first angular radiation distribution has a first average radiation distribution, said second angular radiation distribution has a second average radiation distribution, and said first and second average radiation distributions are about constant throughout a scan.

33. (currently amended) A system for reducing the physician's radiation exposure from an imaging system while maintaining patient dose and image quality comprising:

a gantry having an x-ray source and a radiation detector array, wherein said gantry defines a patient cavity and wherein said x-ray source and said radiation detector array are rotatably associated with said gantry so as to be separated by said patient cavity;

a patient support structure movably associated with said gantry so as to allow communication with said patient cavity; and

a processing device, wherein said processing device is adapted to;

determines an entry location representative of a location of a physician's hand;

operates the imaging system so as to cause the imaging system to emit radiation having a radiation intensity and an angular radiation distribution; controls said radiation intensity in a manner responsive to said entry location so as to create image data; and processes said image data so as to create processed image data; wherein said imaging system is adapted to provide said angular radiation distribution comprising a first angular radiation distribution suitable for a 360 degree image reconstruction and a second angular radiation distribution suitable for a 180 degree image reconstruction; wherein said first angular radiation distribution has a first average radiation distribution, said second angular radiation distribution has a second average radiation distribution, and said first and second average radiation distributions are about constant throughout said scan.

34. (original) The system of claim 33, wherein the imaging system is a computed tomography imaging system.

35. (currently amended) A system for reducing the physician's radiation exposure from an imaging system while maintaining patient dose and image quality comprising:

- an imaging system;
- a patient support structure movingly associated with said imaging system so as to allow communication between said imaging system and a patient, wherein said imaging system generates image data responsive to said patient; and
- a processing device, wherein said processing device is adapted to;
 - determines an entry location representative of a location of a physician's hand;
 - operates the imaging system so as to cause the imaging system to emit radiation having a radiation intensity and an angular radiation distribution;

controls said radiation intensity in a manner responsive to said entry location so as to create image data; and
processes said image data so as to create processed image data;
wherein said imaging system is adapted to provide said angular radiation distribution comprising a first angular radiation distribution suitable for a 360 degree image reconstruction and a second angular radiation distribution suitable for a 180 degree image reconstruction;
wherein said first angular radiation distribution has a first average radiation distribution, said second angular radiation distribution has a second average radiation distribution, and said first and second average radiation distributions are about constant throughout a scan.

36. (original) The system of claim 35, wherein the imaging system is a computed tomography imaging system.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figure 5 to include the numeral 48 associated with the ordinate labeled “Radiation Intensity Level”, and to include the numeral 50 associated with the “entry angular range”. The drawing amendments are described in the application as originally filed and discussed below. No new matter has been added. Replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing the changes made are provided herewith.